

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

PROGRAM TITLE

ADVERTISER

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #501

AGENCY

SUSTAINING

WRITER

DAY & DATE

AUGUST 28, 1942

11:30 - 12:00 P.M. WMAQ

TIME

PRODUCTION NOTESCHARACTERSCAST

JIM -- HARVEY HAYS

JERRY -- ART JACOBSON

BESS -- KATHERN CARD

HELEN -- BESS McCAMMON

SOUNDREMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:

This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Production Director

Announcer

Agency Producer or Announcer

BLUE · NETWORK · COMPANY

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: Several weeks ago we suggested to our listeners that the new Forest Service leaflet titled Wood Needed for War, Without Ruining the Land We're Fighting to Defend, could be had for the asking. One post-card from Indiana requesting the leaflet, also carried this heartening information, quote, "We have 90 acres of good timber on our farm and we are going to sell some of it where it is needed most. We're sure there is quite a bit of it that our country needs," end of quote.... Yes, indeed, our country at war does need wood, lots of wood, and this is an excellent time to sell timber. But not all timber. There is never a proper time to sell undersized trees -- young, rapidly growing trees of potentially good quality. America will need timber in the future, and America will have timber if we just let the little trees grow now. But then, we're sure our Indiana friend knows that, and to her we say, "Nice going. You're right. Uncle Sam needs a lot of good, mature timber....all he can get, without ruining the land his boys are fighting to defend."

And now, let's see what's going on at the Pine Cone Ranger Station. We join our friends at the supper table, enjoying one of Bess Robbins' fine meals. Present are Bess, and Ranger Jim Robbins and Jim's assistant Jerry Quick, and...well, if it isn't Helen Richards, Bess' spinster aunt from Elk City, who's also on hand. Helen as you'll soon find out, represents the well-to-do side of Bess Robbins' family. But..here they are.....

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: Several weeks ago we suggested to our listeners that the new

Forest Service leaflet titled Wood Needed for War, Without
 Ruining the Land We're Fighting to Defend, could be had for
 the asking. One post-card from Indiana requesting the leaflet
 also carried this heartening information, quote, "We have 20
 acres of good timber on our farm and we are going to sell some
 of it where it is needed most. We're sure there is quite a lot
 of it that our country needs," end of quote.... Yes, indeed,
 our country at war does need wood, lots of wood, and this is
 excellent time to sell timber. But not all timber. There is
 never a proper time to sell undervalued trees -- young, rapidly
 growing trees of potentially good quality. America will need
 timber in the future, and America will have timber if we just
 the little trees grow now. But then, we're sure our Indiana
 friend knows that, and so he says, "Nice going. You're right.
 Uncle Sam needs a lot of good, mature timber.... all he can get
 without ruining the land he's fighting to defend."

And now, let's see what's going on at the Pine Cone Range
 Station. We join our friends at the supper table, enjoying one
 of Beas Robbins' fine meals. Present are Beas, and Ranger Jim
 Robbins and Jim's assistant Jerry Quirk and... well, if it isn't
 Helen Richards, Beas' spinster aunt from Elk City, who's also
 on hand. Helen as you'll soon find out, represents the well-to-
 do side of Beas Robbins' family. But... here they are.....

FADE IN CLATTER OF EATING UTENSILS

HELEN: (PRIM, PRECISE) Elizabeth, this is a quite acceptable meal. I declare I haven't tasted anything so delicious as this particular dish here. These are the best sweetbreads I've ever eaten.

JIM: Sweetbreads?

JERRY: You're way off, Miss Richards. That stuff's eggplant. Common, ordinary eggplant except that it's french-fried like only Mrs. Robbins can do it.

HELEN: Oh!

JIM: Sure, that's what it is, Helen, eggplant. Here, have some more?

HELEN: No...No thanks. I've had a sufficiency, thank you, James.

JERRY: (SOTTO) Holy smoke. Now it's James.

BESS: What did you say, Jerry?

JERRY: Me?...Oh, I was just thinking out loud I guess. Sweetbreads, eggplant... You know, what's in a name?

JIM: (SARCASTICALLY) Yeah.

HELEN: Well, as I was saying. You are a splendid cook, Elizabeth, and it does seem such a pity that your fine talents should be wa...(sted)...well, should be hidden here in this rural environment.

JIM: I don't know about that. I reckon Bess knows we appreciate her cooking ability, Helen.

JERRY: Sure, everybody knows Mrs. Robbins is the best cook in the county.

FAGE IN CLATTER OF EATING UTENSILS

HELEN: (PHIM, PRECISE) Elizabeth, this is a quite acceptable meal

I declare I haven't tasted anything so delicious as this particular dish here. These are the best sweetbreads I've

ever eaten.

JIM: Sweetbreads?

JERRY: You're way off, Miss Richards. That stuff's eggplant. Common

ordinary eggplant except that it's french-fried like only it

Robbins can do it.

HELEN: Oh!

JIM: Sure, that's what it is, Helen, eggplant. Here, have some and

HELEN: No... No thanks. I've had a sufficient, thank you, James.

JERRY: (GOTTO) Holy smoke. Now it's James.

BEES: What did you say, Jerry?

JERRY: Me?... Oh, I was just thinking out loud I guess. Sweetbreads

eggplant... You know, what's in a name?

JIM: (SARCASTICALLY) Yeah.

HELEN: Well, as I was saying. You are a splendid cook, Elizabeth.

It does seem such a pity that your fine talents should be

we...(sads)...well, should be hidden here in this rural

environment.

JIM: I don't know about that. I reckon Bees knows we suggested

cooking ability, Helen.

JERRY: Sure, everybody knows Mrs. Robbins is the best cook in the

county.

BESS: I'm sure Aunt Helen didn't mean what you thought she meant, Jim.

JIM: I dunno. Seems to me there was only one way to take her statement.

HELEN: (LAUGHS) You're so droll, James. And of course you're right. I should like to take Elizabeth home to stay with me for several weeks after I have finished my business here.

JIM: Why, Helen? So you can show off Bess' cooking to your friends?

BESS: Jim! (FLUSTERED) Oh dear! What...what is the business here that you have to do, Aunt Helen?

HELEN: It's that section of forest land I own near town, Elizabeth. I'm to meet a man here in Winding Creek tomorrow morning. I'm going to sell all the timber that's on it and....

JIM: You're going to what?

HELEN: I said I was going to sell all that timber on my land.

JERRY: Oh, no. You can't do that, Miss Richards. Not all the timber.

HELEN: And why can't I dispose of my own property, young man?

JERRY: Because...well, because there's a lot of young, thrifty stock on it that shouldn't be cut now, that's why. There's some fine old stuff too, of course, that's ready to come out, but the rest of it, uh uh.

HELEN: Young man, it seems to me that you're completely unaware that our country is at war, that wood is in great demand and....

JIM: Yeah, but you got to exercise some common sense, too, Helen. Sure, Uncle Sam needs wood for war and we got to get it out for him but he doesn't expect folke to sacrifice young growing stock unnecessarily....

I'm sure Aunt Helen didn't mean what you thought she meant, Jim. I dunno. Seems to me there was only one way to take her

statement.

(LAUGHS) You're so droll, James. And of course you're right.

I should like to take Elizabeth home to stay with me for several weeks after I have finished my business here.

Why, Helen? So you can show off Bess' cooking to your friends?

Jim! (FLUSTERED) Oh dear! What... what is the business here?

that you have to do, Aunt Helen?

It's that section of forest land I own near town, Elizabeth.

I'm to meet a man here in Winding Creek tomorrow morning.

going to sell all the timber that's on it and...

You're going to what?

I said I was going to sell all that timber on my land.

Oh, no. You can't do that, Miss Richards. Not all the timber

and why can't I dispose of my own property, young man?

Because... well, because there's a lot of young, thrifty stock

on it that shouldn't be cut now, that's why. There's some fine

old stuff too, of course, that's ready to come out, but the

rest of it, uh uh.

Young man, it seems to me that you're completely unaware that

our country is at war, that wood is in great demand and...

Yeah, but you got to exercise some common sense, too, Helen.

Sure, Uncle Sam needs wood for war and we got to get it out for

him but he doesn't expect folks to sacrifice young growing stock

unnecessarily....

BESS:

JIM:

HELEN:

JIM:

BESS:

HELEN:

JIM:

HELEN:

JERRY:

HELEN:

JERRY:

HELEN:

JIM:

HELEN: This is a time of sacrifice, James. I want you to know that I was motivated by only the most patriotic impulses when I decided to sell all the timber on my property. I love the forest and trees, don't I, Elizabeth?

BESS: I....I suppose so, Aunt Helen but...

JIM: I don't call it patriotic to destroy young trees that will mean a lot more to our country in the difficult years to come than they will right now.

BESS: Jim...Helen....listen to me.....

HELEN: James, I resent your saying that I am unpatriotic. I'll have you know that I have been unstinting in my contribution to the various War Funds and that I am diverting a large portion of my income to War Bonds.

JIM: That's fine, mighty fine and I'm glad to hear it.

BESS: Why it's wonderful, Aunt Helen....

JIM: Yeah, but that ain't got anything to do with what we're talking about right now. Whether you know it or not, Helen, I've shared in the protection of that forest land of yours and I've got more than a personal interest in that timber.

JERRY: And now, Miss Richards. Why, just last summer Jim routed me out of bed one night to help him put out a fire on your place. There wouldn't have been much timber left now if we hadn't....

HELEN: (STIFFLY) I shall be glad to reimburse both of you for your trouble...

BESS: Aunt Helen, Jim doesn't want pay for....

The first part of the story is about a young man who is very poor and has no money. He is very kind and has a lot of friends. He is very happy and has a lot of fun. He is very brave and has a lot of courage. He is very smart and has a lot of ideas. He is very strong and has a lot of power. He is very beautiful and has a lot of charm. He is very kind and has a lot of friends. He is very happy and has a lot of fun. He is very brave and has a lot of courage. He is very smart and has a lot of ideas. He is very strong and has a lot of power. He is very beautiful and has a lot of charm.

to call all the other boys in my property. I love the forest and the trees, don't I, Elizabeth?

I... I suppose so, Aunt Helen says...

I don't call it a property to destroy young trees that will grow and more to our country in the difficult years to come than they will right now.

Elizabeth... listen to me....

Yes, I repeat your saying that I am ungrateful. Will you

you know that I have been waiting in my contentment and

you know that I am waiting for a better future.

Elizabeth, my dear, I'm glad to hear it.

Why it's wonderful, Aunt Helen....

Yes, but that isn't God's way of doing things. He's always

about right now. Whether you know it or not, Helen, I'm

in the protection of that forest land of yours and I've got to

have a personal interest in that timber.

And now, Elizabeth. Why, just last summer the timber

of had one right to help him put out a fire on your side.

Wouldn't that have been much timber left now if he hadn't?

(Sighs) I shall be glad to reimburse both of you for your

trouble...

Elizabeth, my dear, I'm glad to hear it.

JIM: Wait a minute, Bess. Look, Helen. I said I had a personal interest in that timber of yours but that ain't anything compared to the interest folks all over the county have in your land....

BESS: Jim is right, Aunt Helen. If you lived as close to forest work as I have all these years you'd realize that no matter who owns them, forests sort of belong to all the people. Wherever there are trees they somehow affect everybody in lots of ways...by giving them jobs, providing water, shelter, beauty....

HELEN: It's my land and the trees are mine, regardless. And I shall do with them as I see fit. I believe that my timber, yes, all of my timber if you please, should go to war and that's the way it shall be.

JERRY: Yeah. Cut everything that'll make a two-by-four...Slash everything big and small...And when it's all over...there'll be nothing left but stumps and snags and a few broken, twisted little trees...and the land won't be worth a thing for a long, long time to come. (BITTERLY) That ought to please Hitler, all right. It'll save him a lot of trouble.

HELEN: Young man, I don't think you're a bit humorous.

JERRY: I wasn't trying to be funny, Miss Richards. I just think you've got the wrong slant on things.

HELEN: Indeed!

BESS: Aunt Helen, if only I could get you and Jim to calm down a bit and talk this over sensibly. I think I know what's bothering Jim most of all.

part a minute, Gen. I said I had a personal

interest in that timber of yours but that ain't anything

compared to the interest folks all over the county have in you

land...

Oh is right, Aunt Helen. If you lived as close to forest

as I live all these years you'd realize that no matter how

many forests sort of belong to all the people. Whenever they

are there they somehow affect everybody in lots of ways...

Giving them jobs, providing water, shelter, beauty...

It's my land and the trees are mine, regardless. And I don't

care what you think. I believe that's right, isn't it?

of my father if you please, should go to war and that's the

way it shall be.

Well, that's something that I can't say...

everything else and small. And when it's all over, there'll

be nothing left but stumps and eggs and a few broken, twisted

little trees... and the land won't be worth a thing for a long

time. (Sighs) That's what I believe...

all right. Well, I'll have him a lot of trouble.

Young man, I don't think you're a bit handsome.

I wasn't trying to be funny, Miss Richards. I just think you

got the wrong element on things.

Indeed!

And I don't think you're a bit handsome.

And I don't think you're a bit handsome.

And I don't think you're a bit handsome.

JERRY: Hey! That's right. That cooperative timber marketing plan of Jim's. Boy, this'll sure put a crimp in that program.

HELEN: What are you talking about?

JIM: Just this, Helen. Most of the farmers and other woods-owners in the county are getting together on a timber marketing program. It's a real cooperative plan of forest management.

BESS: Yes, Aunt Helen. And Jim and the county agent have worked an hard to help all the wood lot owners with the program. They're practicing selective cutting, and....

HELEN: And what is selective cutting?

JERRY: It's cutting the mature trees, and diseased and fire-scarred trees that should be cut, and leaving the thrifty young small stuff to grow, Miss Richards. Like we've been telling you should be done with your timber.

JIM: And there's another reason for this cooperative. A mighty important one to folks around here. Unlike you maybe, Helen, our farmers can't afford to get their timber go willy nilly. It's only right that they should get a fair price for the timber they sell. Before this cooperative got going a lot of the farmers took a beating... Some of them not only cut their timber clean with nary a stick left, but in many cases, they didn't make a fair profit at all.

HELEN: Are you insinuating that I'm a poor business woman and that the timberman with whom I am negotiating is dishonest?

That's right. That cooperative timber marketing plan.

Yes, Boy, this'll sure put a crimp in that program.

What are you talking about?

Just this, fellow. Most of the farmers and other wood-owners

in the county are getting together on a timber marketing

program. It's a real cooperative plan of forest management.

Yes, Aunt Helen, and Jim and the county agent have worked

hard to help all the wood-owners with the program. They're

awfully good fellows, you know.

And what is selective cutting?

It's cutting the mature trees, and diseased and damaged

trees that should be cut, and leaving the thirty young trees

that are growing. Like we've been doing you

should be done with your timber.

And there's another reason for this cooperative. A high

percentage of the trees around here. Unlike you maybe, Helen

our farmers can't afford to get their timber so easily at

it's only when they should get a fair price for the

timber they sell. Before this cooperative got going a lot

of farmers had a beating. Some of them not only lost

their timber but they lost a lot of money, but in many cases, not

that much. I don't know if you know that or not.

And you know that that's a poor business woman and that's

the reason why when I am negotiating is dishonest?

JIM: It isn't that, Helen. I'm not blaming the timbermen. They try to make a good business deal, that's all. And nobody can blame them for that. The trouble is that the land owner in a lot of cases, doesn't know how to get full value for his timber...As far as you're concerned though, with your money and all, I don't suppose it matters particularly what happens to your land or what price you get for your timber.

HELEN: Humph! Don't be too sure about that, James. But still, I can't see that the way in which I handle my land has anything to do with your cooperative program.

JIM: You can't, huh? How do you think it's goin' to look when I go 'round talking up good forest management, and at the same time, the land that belongs to my wife's aunt is being cut clear.

HELEN: Well!...Elizabeth, I must say that I seem to have worn out my wel....

BESS: Just a minute, Aunt Helen.

JIM: I'm afraid it's no use, Bess.

BESS: You listen to me too, Jim Robbins. I declare. There's been more wrangling and gainless talk in this Ranger Station tonight than I ever remember. Now both of you, listen to me. Aunt Helen, you're going to break your appointment with that man tomorrow morning...You needn't look so prim. Because you see, Jim and Jerry are going to show you some of the land that's been cut like you plan to have yours cut, and also some of the land that's being handled under the cooperative management and marketing plan. Then, if you still want to, you can see that man and sell your timber as you see fit.

JERRY: Good for you, Mrs. Robbins.

JIM: That's fair enough, Helen.

HELEN: I will not be dragooned, Elizabeth....

JERRY: (SOTTO) Sister, you're going with us tomorrow if we have to hog-tie you.

HELEN: What did you say, young man? Always mumbling....

JERRY: I said that after tomorrow I'm sure we'll be able to rely on you...you know, to do the right thing....

HELEN: (FADING) Humpf! Indeed!

PAUSE

JIM: (FADING IN) Well, Helen, you've seen some of the areas that have been hacked and slashed because of the temptation to cut timber clean off with the prices running high. Not a very pretty sight, huh?

HELEN: N..no...it wasn't very pretty...but if timber is needed...

BESS: Please let Jim explain further, Aunt Helen.

JERRY: Yeah. You'll be surprised to learn, Miss Richards, that this area we're looking at now, logged selectively like you see.... it provided a lot better timber for the war and the owner got more money for what he sold here than the farmer did who clear cut his land. What about that?

HELEN: Young man, what do you mean?

JIM: That's right, Helen. Jerry and I helped mark the timber that was sold here. The only trees cut were those that were mature or needed to be cut to improve the stand. The cooperative helped the owner to get a good price and you can believe me when I tell you he made more than was offered for all his timber last year on a lump sale basis..

...ed for you, the. Robbins.

...that's why...

I will not be frightened. Elizabeth.

(SOTTO) Sister, you're going with us tomorrow if we have to.

Help-me you.

What did you say, young man? Always minding...

I said that after tomorrow I'll come with you to help you.

Yes... you know, to do the right thing...

...that's what I want.

(TALKING IN) Well, Helen, you've seen some of the trees that

have been hacked and slashed because of the temptation to cut

timber clean off with the axes running right. Not a very

right, right?

Yes, no... it wasn't very pretty... but if timber is needed.

Please see the explanation, and Helen.

Yeah. I'll be surprised to learn, Miss Richards, that the

area is so beautiful at now, logged selectively like you say...

It provided a lot better timber for the war and the owner got

more money for what he sold here than the farmer did when he

cut his land. What about that?

Young man, what do you mean?

That's right, Helen. Jerry and I helped mark the timber that

was sold here. The only trees cut were those that were

or needed to be cut to improve the stand. The cooperative

the owner to get a good price and you can believe me when I tell

you that more than was offered for all the timber last year

...a lot more.

JERRY: That's right. He got out wood for war and at the same time he's kept his land productive so Uncle Sam can have wood for later on, which is a mighty important consideration.

HELEN: It's all very interesting, I'm sure.

BESS: Then you'll go along with Jim on the proper way to sell your timber?

HELEN: Well...I...I....

JIM: Look Helen. I'll wager if you tie in with the cooperative and if you'll let me or the county agent help you plan to dispose of your prime timber under good cutting rules, you'll get a better return than if you make a lump sale. Just think. You'll have more money to buy War Bonds.

HELEN: Well...uh...

JERRY: Come on, Miss Richards. Be a sport.

HELEN: A sport! Indeed!

JERRY: Oh, what's the use?

JIM: Helen, I'm concerned enough about seeing you handle your timber right that I'd even agree to letting Bess visit with you a week or so if you'll tie in with the cooperative. What do you say?

HELEN: (ENTHUSED) Really? Will you go, Elizabeth? And maybe, some night, prepare some more of that delicious french-fried eggplant just for me?

BESS: (EAGERLY) Of course, Aunt Helen.

HELEN: Well, then. What are we waiting for? Take me to the officers of the timber cooperative, James. Immediately!

That's right. He got out wood for war and at the same time he's kept his land productive so Uncle Sam can have wood for later on, which is a mighty important consideration.

It's all very interesting, I'm sure. Then you'll go along with Jim on the proper way to sell your timber?

Well...I...I.... Look Helen. I'll wager if you tie in with the cooperative and if you'll let me or the county agent help you plan to dispose of your prime timber under good cutting rules, you'll get a better return than if you make a lump sale. Just think. You'll have more money to buy War Bonds.

Well...uh... Come on, Miss Richards. Be a sport. A sport! Indeed!

Oh, what's the use? Helen, I'm concerned enough about seeing you handle your timber right that I'd even agree to letting Beas visit with you a week or so if you'll tie in with the cooperative. What do you say?

(ENTHUSIASTIC) Really? Will you go, Elizabeth? And maybe, some night, prepare some more of that delicious French-fried eggplant just for me?

(NAGGERY) Of course, Aunt Helen. Well, then. What are we waiting for? Take me to the office of the timber cooperative, James. Immediately!

JERRY:

HELEN:

BEAS:

HELEN:

JIM:

HELEN:

JERRY:

HELEN:

JERRY:

JIM:

HELEN:

BEAS:

HELEN:

JERRY: Well, I'll be jiggered! To the cooperative, James.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Okay...Looks like Bess' fried eggplant can do more for good forestry than even an old Ranger like me.

HELEN: Humpf! Indeed!

MUSIC FINALE

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each week during the National Farm and Home Hour as a network presentation with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Well, I'll be ligated! To the cooperative, James.

JERRY:

(CHUCKLING) Okay... Looks like Bass' tried eggplant can do so

JIM:

for good forestry than even an old Ranger like me.

Humpy! Indeed!

HELEN:

MUSIC FINALE

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers come to you each week during the
National Farm and Home Hour as a network presentation with the
cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of
Agriculture.